

Plaza, a stone's throw from the White House, to declare their own moratorium on murder for the Father's Day weekend.

Not only did their moratorium have important symbolic value; in fact there was only one murder last weekend. Of primary importance was the fact that the moratorium was symbolic and entirely citizen initiated. Residents themselves must take responsibility for crime and not regard criminal activity as a matter for the police alone. I am pleased that the D.C. Council and the Mayor responded with a resolution supporting the moratorium, but the event got its importance from its origin with residents. The moratorium was initiated by Kenneth E. Burnes whose son was murdered in his U Street store and became one of 233 residents killed in 2001. This year's homicide rate is 9 percent ahead of last year's rate. Almost all of the killings here and elsewhere are committed by handguns.

The bill, however, does not conflict with Member's positions on the controversial issue of gun control. The bill would simply allow people who desire to get guns out of their homes to do so without incurring criminal penalties for possession. Families, and especially mothers, have feared guns in their homes, but often do not know how to get rid of them. In most jurisdictions, a grandmother petrified that there is a gun in the house for example, or her grandson, who may possess the illegal weapons cannot turn it in without subjecting herself or her grandson to prosecution. This is reason enough for gun buyback efforts.

Like tax amnesty, gun amnesty puts a premium on the ultimate goal. When the goal is taxes, the government puts a premium on getting the amount owed. When the goal is guns, the premium is on getting deadly weapons off the streets and out of people's homes. This bill is entirely voluntary and does not compel anyone to give up a handgun, even one that is illegally held.

This bill would provide Federal funds to local jurisdictions to engage in gun buyback programs like the successful programs conducted by the District of Columbia a few years ago. Under the bill, funds would be distributed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD. After evaluation of proposals, added weight would be given to jurisdictions with the greatest incidence of gun violence. The NGBA would require that a jurisdiction certify that it is capable of destroying the guns within 30 days, that it can conduct the program safely, and that an amnesty appropriate for the jurisdiction will be offered. Not only individuals, but groups such as gangs could take advantage of the buyback provisions to encourage street gangs to disarm themselves.

This bill is necessary because, despite the extraordinary demonstrated success of the gun buyback program in the District, local jurisdictions have not readily available funds for similar programs. The District was forced to find money on an ad hoc basis and ran out of funds despite residents who still desired to turn in guns. Initially, the District conducted a pilot program using funds from HUD. Confronted with long lines of residents, the Police Department then took the program citywide, using drug asset forfeiture funds. Even so, after using \$290,000, the city ran out of funds, but not of guns, that could have been collected. The guns were a "good buy" but hard-pressed jurisdictions, especially big cities,

should not have to rob Peter to pay Paul when it comes to public safety. The Federal Government can play a unique and noncontroversial role in reducing gun violence by providing the small amount authorized by my bill, \$50 million, to encourage buyback efforts where a local jurisdiction believes they can be helpful.

The Nation's Capital has successfully demonstrated a faster and easier way to put guns under the control of law enforcement where criminals cannot use them and children and adults cannot misuse them. Gun buyback efforts are not new, but the recent, dramatic impact of the District's program has special bipartisan and natural appeal today because the program is voluntary and requires no change in local or Federal gun laws. A gun buyback bill is certainly no substitute for gun safety legislation, but my bill is based on demonstrated and successful experience in a number of cities that have achieved voluntary compliance by citizens with local laws.

The extraordinary success of the buyback programs in the District and around the country has shown that these programs should now be readily available to jurisdictions that desire to use them. In a market economy, efforts to buy back guns have special appeal. We may disagree on the various approaches as to gun violence, but Democrats and Republicans alike can agree to this sensible approach.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE FRIGETTO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to recognize the twenty-two years of service that Florence Frigetto has dedicated to the children of Montrose, Colorado. Florence is retiring after having served as the Director of Food Service for the Montrose County School District for the last thirteen years. As we mark her retirement, I would like to commend Florence for the devotion that she has shown to her students over the years.

Florence became the district's food service administrator after making meals from scratch for the local schools for nearly a decade. Florence's co-workers estimate that she has served or supervised nearly thirteen million meals over her career. In her time as a food service administrator, she has focused on maintaining the quality of the food along with its nutritious value. Florence, a respected baker, ensures that all the bread eaten by her students is freshly baked in the school's kitchen.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions Florence Frigetto has made to the health and well being of Colorado's children. Florence will certainly be missed by the children under her care, as well as by her co-workers who have come to know and admire her remarkable dedication. Florence, I wish you all the best in your retirement and thank you for your many years of exemplary service.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JUSTIN SEAMAN OF CLAYSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an exceptional young man from Claysville, Pennsylvania, in my district. Mr. Justin Seaman has recently distinguished himself and has earned several honors as a talented and successful film producer and writer. Justin owns and manages his own film company, Nevermore Production, which has produced two movies that earned tremendous accolades for their powerful themes and serious messages. And while others have won awards for such accomplishments, what is unique about Justin, however, is the fact that he is still in high school. In fact, his projects have struck a chord with his friends and fellow teens, so much so that Justin has enlisted the support of many fellow students at McGuffey High School in producing his work. Films, like one Justin produced about the catastrophic consequences of drinking and driving are changing lives for the better. Using art, Justin is making a real difference in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the example one great young man is setting for teens across Southwestern Pennsylvania. Too often when we in Congress talk about teens, we focus on the negative influences affecting them today: drug addiction, alcohol abuse, teen pregnancies, and on and on. But young men like Justin Seaman are standing up for a generation. They are determined to set the right example and to do it with style. We ought to stop and recognize the positive influences of these young leaders more often in America. Our country is a far better place for being home to such inspiring and responsible young adults as Justin.

Justin's accomplishments have been recognized on a National level. Just last week he was invited to the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts along with hundreds of his peers from across the nation for special recognition. His recognitions include the Robert Morris College TVT Award of Excellence, the Critics Award for Excellence in acting, four national honors at the Scholastic Inc. Art & Writing competition, one gold award for a personal essay, "A Guarantee in Life" and last, but not least, a silver award as well as the American Visions award for his mixed media entry in Scholastic Inc.'s national competition. Justin's list of honors and awards confirms his dedication to furthering excellence in the arts and has rightfully earned him recognition as a leader in the competitive performing arts arena. Justin desires to direct films one day in hopes of reaching the caliber of renowned director, Wes Craven. This coming senior year, Justin has already lined up five films to produce. I have no doubt that Justin's ambition, drive and devotion to the arts will prove fruitful as he continues to pursue his dream of making films. I wish him the best of luck and all the success that his efforts award him and I thank him for being a true role model for teens everywhere across our country.